

RURAL REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
Bill Draft Request Development (BDR) Subcommittee
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2022
11:00 AM Until Adjournment

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the chairperson's discretion.

- 1.) Call to Order/Roll Call - Valerie Haskin, Coordinator for the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board BDR Subcommittee.
Meeting was called to order.

Members Present:

Fergus Laughridge, Chair
Amanda Osborne
Steven Brotman

Guests:

Dr. Sarah Hunt
Megan Comlossy
Andrea Gregg

- 2.) **Public Comment:**
There was no public comment at this time.
- 3.) **Informational:** Introduction to Purpose and End Goals of Subcommittee. Valerie Haskin, Coordinator for the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board BDR Subcommittee.

Ms. Haskin explained the purpose of this meeting is to flush out a Bill Draft Request (BDR) concept which will be approved by the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (RBHPB) in its entirety at their August meeting for submission by September 1, 2022 for inclusion for the Nevada legislative session in 2023. Ms. Haskin instructed participants to keep all ideas and topics proposed, focused on solutions pertaining to a.) Workforce development or directly support workforce development; and b.) those which require or would benefit from legislative changes to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). Solutions that would be accomplished outside of the legislative session. We will hear them, but they will be placed in a "parking lot" area for note later on.

- 4.) **Informational:** Introduction to Other State's Behavioral Health Workforce Development Pipeline Models - Nebraska and Illinois.
Dr. Sarah Hunt, Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Sciences; Director of the University

Of Nevada, Las Vegas Mental/Behavioral Health Training Coalition: Associate Professor, of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Hunt gave an overview of a presentation on workforce development from the University of Nebraska. The program is called Behavioral Health Education Center Of Nebraska (BHECN), in which the Nebraskan legislators helped fund this program to improve training and recruitment in the mental health workforce.

Dr. Hunt explained most of the funding does come from grants. Dr. Hunt added Illinois adopted this program with great success and Kansas, West Virginia, and Oregon are also looking at this program. Dr. Hunt believes Nevada can also adopt this program and adjust it to fulfill Nevada's needs.

Ms. Haskin asked if there were any questions.
No questions were asked.

5.) Informational: Introduction to Other Work Completed.

Megan Comlossy, Associate Director, Center for Public Health Excellence, School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Reno; Andrea L. Gregg, Chief Executive Officer, High Sierra Area Health Education Community (AHEC).

Ms. Comlossy gave a brief review on Nevada Health Care Workforce and Pipeline Development Workgroup. Ms. Comlossy identified problems and weaknesses, explained what their mission and objectives are. Ms. Comlossy showed how the pipeline flows and presented what the opportunities are and where they can improve the workforce and recruiting for a career in the mental health field.

Ms. Haskin inquired if there are any statute challenges.

Ms. Comlossy stated the challenges are not statute specific but rather policy oriented. The examples Ms. Comlossy gave was the licensing process and requirements, and funding to provide the resources to develop the infrastructure.

Mr. Gerald Akerman agreed the infrastructure and support in the rural areas need improvement. Mr. Akerman also stated clinical supervision needs to be more creative in the rural communities and to provide supervisors so people entering into the mental health workforce can attain their clinical hours to get their license.

Mr. Patrick Rogers from Nevada Health Centers, stated clinical supervision can be done remotely with once a month on site visits. Mr. Rogers also suggested the use of primary care providers being the on-site supervisors for mental health interns.

Ms. Haskin cited SB44 which requires all four behavioral health licensing boards, which are named in this bill, are now mandated to make a regulation to accommodate the remote supervision of interns.

Chair Laughridge inquired as to where the funding for this program comes from.

Ms. Comlossy stated the funding is through the Division of Public and Behavioral

Health who is within the Department of Health and Human Services and is currently funded through the Center of Disease Control (CDC) workforce grant. Funding runs out in June 2023.

6.) **Discussion:** Gaps and Legislative Fixes.

Chair Fergus Laughridge, Members of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board present; Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator; other attendees.

Based on the information provided in Agenda Items 4 and 5 and guided by the purpose of the Subcommittee outlined in Agenda item 3, the Board Chair led the group in a discussion to identify the most urgent gaps in the current system, as well as legislative changes which may ameliorate these issues.

Ms. Comlossy stated each subcommittee is working to develop a workforce pipeline plan. The idea is to come up with goals and objectives with things we can do and then start implanting them. Our resources are more facilitation on this work with reliance on community partners programs and institutions.

Mr. Trey Delap (chat) wrote; If the boards wanted to - they would. With a part time (PT) legislature - they aren't equipped to perform oversight. The governor has little power over the boards. Soooo - new ways to motivate the professionals who lead these boards should be explored.

Ms. Haskin stated she has some ideas and wondered if it would be a separate entity or a joint entity, but some sort of center for behavioral health excellence. Ms. Haskin continued by stating not only do they have this pipeline model, but they would also work to launch and probably need a home for it. Also, the Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board is still exploring the Behavioral Health Authority model. In which case, those authorities probably need a home to land to get it rolling. There is other projects for innovation and other things statewide. Having a behavioral health centered or focus organization would be incredibly helpful to tie in the call tech transfer where you would have research into practice and have meaningful places not only for research to take place but also testing the real world of ethical research particularly in the context of rural Nevada.

With SB 390, last legislative session; the priorities aren't quite set and what the money should be spent on. The funding has to be oriented toward specifically things that would remediate the opioid crisis in the state. Ms. Haskin inquired if behavioral health workforce would be one of the pieces which would require a legislative fix.

Assemblywoman Sara Peters likes the idea of consolidating Behavioral Health policy into one entity where the whole continuum of care for adults and children.

Trey Delap (chat) wrote; One radical approach would be to "sweep" the licensing board

Funds into the general fund - then appropriate those funds through the appropriation process. Other states have this structure (Texas). But prepare for war!

Ms. Haskin stated at the last legislative session, Senator Patricia Spearman, the Chair Of Commerce and Labor, suggested Ms. Haskin go to the Cosmetology Board because their licensing process is considerably faster. After speaking with the Executive Director for the Cosmetology Board, Ms. Haskin discovered the Cosmetology Board has an online portal which automates everything.

The Rural Board approved a letter to interim Health and Human Services (HHS). In the Letter, the Board suggested the creation of some sort of platform for all occupational licensing in Nevada thus streamlining the processes and perhaps the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could be used for this purpose.

Assemblywoman Peters stated the letter should go through Commerce and Labor and should also be sent to the Governor's Office, the Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) or Business and Industry.

Ms. Joelle McNutt, Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors (NVBOE for MFT/CPC). Ms. McNutt belongs to the American Association for Counseling Boards and they do have a compact commission.

Ms. McNutt stated there is a lot to be considered about getting professionals in Nevada. Ms. McNutt has been speaking to students and faculty about licensing and getting them licensure quicker. Education requirements and ethical scope of competence must be met. Once the background check comes back, the issuance their license is issued within two days. The website for the compact commission is <https://counselingcompact.org>.

Mr. Ackerman inquired if there are temporary license provisions.

Ms. McNutt stated there are no temporary licensing provisions at this time. Legislation is required for this to happen.

- 7.) **Action Item:** Designate Initial Critical Gaps to Prioritize and Assign Action Items. Fergus Laughridge, Chair; Members of the rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board present; Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral health Coordinator. The Chair Will lead the Board Members present to:

Initial prioritization of gap areas. Assign action items to Board Members, the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, or any other willing guest or meeting participant.

Chair Laughridge asked the board where they want to go with these.

Mr. Steven Brotman would like to go item by item to select which concepts should be looked at further.

Ms. Haskin address item number one: Umbrella Licensing Board.

Mr. Brotman stated it should be placed in the parking lot.

Chair Laughridge agreed.

Ms. Haskin placed this item in the parking lot.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number two: Consolidation of Adult/Youth Behavioral Health Policy.

Ms. Haskin asked Assemblywoman Peters would she like to prioritize this.

Ms. Peters does not feel they can pull something together on this concept in this legislative session but thinks this could be discussed further in the coming year or two.

Chair Laughridge stated there are other groups looking into this concept.

Mr. Brotman inquired if they are referring to chapter 400.

Chair Laughridge stated the group that is working on this is focused on delivery of services and not so much on chapter 400.

Ms. Haskin moved this item into the parking lot as it relates to other policy and not workforce development.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number three: Schools - Evidence Based (EB) information used for health education and health services program.

Chair Laughridge stated this is workforce development focused.

Mr. Brotman stated if money can be allocated towards career development especially for K-12 level, yes, it is workforce development focused.

Ms. Haskin kept it in its original place.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number four: Increase ability of schools to bill Medicaid for behavioral health services. Need professional on staff at each school to do billing.

Mr. Brotman stated he does not think this is workforce related, rather more technical related concept.

Chair Laughridge agrees.

Ms. Haskin moves this item to the parking lot.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number five: "Home" for public and behavioral health. Ms. Haskin stated this merged with the Center for Behavioral Health Excellence Center (BHECN).

Chair Laughridge states this should stay.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number six: Singular licensing portal to be used by all boards.

Chair Laughridge stated this should be moved to the parking lot.

Mr. Brotman agrees this is not workforce development focused.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number seven: Background check - federal partnerships.

Chair Laughridge stated this should go to the licensing boards.

Ms. Haskin moved this to the parking lot.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number eight: Provisional licensing for professionals during background check process.

Chair Laughridge stated this goes along with item number seven.

Ms. Haskin moved this item to the parking lot.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number nine: Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center.

Chair Laughridge stated this should be kept on the original list.

Mr. Brotman agreed.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number ten: Interstate Compacts

Ms. Haskin inquired if this could be crafted into item number nine.

Mr. Brotman would like to learn more about this.

Ms. Haskin kept this item in its original position.

Ms. Haskin addressed item number 11: Governor's Emergency Directive 011.

Chair Laughridge does not think this item will be accepted by other departments.

Ms. Haskin kept this item in its original position.

- 8.) Action Item:** Review and Approve Proposed Subcommittee Meeting Schedule and Topical Areas.

Mr. Brotman moved to vote on the August 12 at 11:00 a.m. and August 19 at 1:00 p.m. for the next subcommittee meetings.

Motion passed.

- 9.) Public Comment:**

Jason Wasden of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Mr. Wasden thinks it's a good idea to have the Center in the North and the South.

- 10.) Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:04.

DRAFT